

Message Text

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LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN/KOREA RELATIONS

SUMMARY. JANUARY 13 AMBASSADOR REVIEWED WITH JAPANESE
AMBASSADOR USHIROKU CURRENT STATE OF GOJ/ROKG RELATIONS.
USHIROKU GENERALLY SEES IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS, BUT
PROBLEMS ARE STILL AHEAD, PARTICULARLY WITH ARRANGING RELEASE
OF TWO JAPANESE ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY DECREES.
MINISTERIAL MEETING LIKELY IN MAY/JUNE: COULD TAKE PLACE VERY
SOON IF STUDENTS RELEASED. END SUMMARY.

1. USHIROKU, WHO DEPARTING FEBRUARY TEN, WAS PLEASED
WITH IMPROVEMENT IN GOJ/ROKG RELATIONS SINCE LOW POINT
OF AUGUST 15 AFTERMATH. NEVERTHELESS, HE NOT FUNDAMENTALLY
OPTIMISTIC, GIVEN UNDERLYING KOREAN SUSPICIONS AND
SENSITIVITIES TOWARD JAPAN AND PRESSURES FROM JAPANESE
PRESS AND LEFTWING PARTIES ON GOJ, PARTICULARLY WITH
RESPECT TO IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA.

2. USHIROKU WAS NOT CONFIDENT THAT RELEASE OF TWO
JAPANESE STUDENTS ARRESTED UNDER EMERGENCY DECREES
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COULD BE ARRANGED. HE VIEWED PROSPECTS OF RELEASE AS

FIFTY-FIFTY. FORMER PRIMIN KISHI, WHO HEADING JAPANESE DELEGATION TO KOREA/JAPAN COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING PRESENTLY IN SEOUL, WILL RAISE ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT PARK JANUARY 14. ACCORDING TO USHIROKU, KISHI NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT RAISING ISSUE, BUT FEELS OBLIGED TO DO SO IN VIEW ADVANCE PRESS REPORTS IN TOKYO PAPERS. STUDENT RELEASE WILL BE RAISED BY KISHI NOT ON MERITS, BUT AS ACTION HELPFUL IN JAPAN.

3. PROBLEMS ARRANGING RELEASE ARISE FROM ROKG DESIRES FOR GUARANTEE BY GOJ THAT STUDENTS WILL REMAIN SILENT AFTER RETURN TO JAPAN, WHICH IMPOSSIBLE. (AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO POINTED OUT TO FONMIN KIM DONG JO UNFEASIBILITY OF SUCH A REQUEST FOR SILENCE.) USHIROKU HAS URGED ROKG TO ACCEPT BRIEF FLURRY OF PRESS INTERVIEWS CRITICAL OF ROKG AFTER RELEASE, ON GROUNDS STORY WILL DIE DOWN VERY QUICKLY.

4. ROKG WOULD ALSO LIKE SOME NOTE OF REPENTANCE FROM THE STUDENTS ACKNOWLEDGING GUILT AS THEY HAD DONE IN ORIGINAL COURT TRIAL. BUT STUDENTS HAVE MADE PROBLEM MORE DIFFICULT BY WORKING APPEAL IN VERY TOUGH TERMS. USHIROKU ALSO COMPLAINED THAT HIS EFFORTS TO MODERATE THE STUDENTS' POSITION HAMPERED BY INABILITY OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL TO SEE THEM. USHIROKU EXPECTS FINAL SUPREME COURT ACTION LATER IN JANUARY WITH THE INITIAL HEARING THIS WEEK, ACCORDING TO ADVICE HE HAS RECEIVED FROM SUPREME COURT JUSTICES.

5. USHIROKU EXPECTS MINISTERIAL MEETING SOMETIME IN MAY/JUNE, AFTER CONCLUSION REGULAR DIET SESSION. HE SAID THERE IS POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING BEFORE DIET CONVENES FEBRUARY FIVE IF STUDENTS ARE RELEASED AND HE HAS HINTED AT THIS POSSIBILITY TO ROKG.

6. RE KIM TAE CHUNG PROBLEM, USHIROKU OPINED THAT FONMIN MIYAZAWA WISHES TO CLOSE OUT THIS ISSUE QUICKLY, BUT JAPANESE PUBLIC OPINION MAY NOT MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. KIM TAE CHUNG TOLD VISITING DIET MEMBERS LAST WEEK THAT HE DID NOT AT THIS TIME WISH TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS, WHICH EASES PROBLEM. USHIROKY COMMENTED THAT GOVERNMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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APPARENTLY USING KIM TAE CHUNG AS COUNTER TO KIM YONG SAM.

7. USHIROKU SAID THAT KIM YONG SAM, THROUGH AN EMISSARY, HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS IN TOKYO WITH PRIMIN MIKI, FONMIN MIYAZAWA, DEPUTY PRIMIN FIKUDA, FINMIN OHIRA AS WELL AS PARTY OFFICIALS. REQUEST MADE ONLY ON JANUARY 11, CONTRARY TO STATEMENT BY KIM YONG SAM TO AMBASSADOR THAT

APPOINTMENTS ALREADY ARRANGED (SEOUL 085). USHIROKU IS RECOMMENDING THAT SENIOR GOJ CABINET MEMBERS NOT SEE KIM YONG SAM SINCE THEY HAVE NOT YET MET WITH ROKG COUNTERPARTS. HE IS, INCIDENTALLY, TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR PRIMIN KIM CHONG PIL TO VISIT TOKYO BRIEFLY FOR MEETING WITH MIKI DURING KIM CHONG PIL'S SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP. USHIROKU SUGGESTED THAT PARTY LEADERS SEE KIM YONG SAM.

8. USHIROKU REITERATED HIS COMPLAINTS IN DEALING WITH FONMIN KIM DONG JO WHO TENDS TO BE VERY DIFFICULT AND IS KNOWN IN JAPAN AS "THE BLUFFER." HE SAID HE SEES MUCH MORE OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO YI PYONG HUI WHO IS DE FACTO FONMIN AS FAR AS ROKG/GOJ RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED. HE FINDS YI MUCH MORE SYMPATHETIC AND UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS IN JAPAN.

9. USHIROKU SAID THAT HE HAS STILL BEEN UNABLE TO ARRANGE DIRECT EXCHANGES OF INFORMATION BETWEEN JAPANESE AND KOREAN POLICE. HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE DE FACTO CONTACTS ESTABLISHED, BUT BOTH POLICE FORCES ARE RELUCTANT AND DEAL NOW ONLY THROUGH INTERPOL. ON JAPANESE SIDE, POLICE ARE STILL UNHAPPY WITH INVESTIGATION OF ROK CIA AGENTS INVOLVED IN KIDNAPPING OF KIM TAE CHUNG, ALTHOUGH SENIOR CIA AGENT INVOLVED HAS BEEN DISMISSED. ON KOREAN SIDE, ROK POLICE EQUALLY UNHAPPY WITH JAPANESE INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSIN MUN'S CONNECTIONS IN JAPAN. SNEIDER

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